

Unit 8 Vocabulary

Ecology	The study of how living things interact with their environment
Habitat	An area where living things can grow & survive
Niche	Role an organism plays in its environment; Specific Part of the habitat where organism lives
Decomposition	Breakdown of a dead organism to its organic materials
Producers	Organisms that are capable of producing food through photosynthesis
Consumers	Organisms that rely on other organisms for their food supply
Symbiosis	A relationship between two different organisms of different species
Mutualism	Symbiotic relationship in which both organisms benefit
Parasitism	A symbiotic relationship in which one organism benefits while the other is harmed
Commensalism	A symbiotic relationship in which one organism benefits without harming the other
Predator	An organism that survives by preying on others
Prey	An organism being hunted to be eaten
Competition	A symbiotic relationship among organisms for resources
Biotic	The living or once-living components of an ecosystem
Abiotic	The non-living components of an ecosystem
Carrying Capacity	The maximum number of individuals in a population that can be supported in a given area
Bioaccumulation	The accumulation of toxic substances as they move up a food chain
Carbon Dioxide	The primary greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming.

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